

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A strap shortening device for securing cargo in a transport vehicle comprising:

a strap having a standing web, the standing web having a working end;

a clip having a ring with an upstanding half ring portion;

said end being threaded on said clip so as to have a combination of turns and bights, said clip displacing the various parts of the strap threaded therein to increase friction so that the strap length can be effectively fixed under load yet the length varied when not under load.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The strap shortening device of claim 13, further comprising:

said combination of turns and bights leading around said clip having said ring with said upstanding half ring portion displacing the various parts of the strap threaded thereon.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The strap shortening device of claim 14, further comprising:

said working end passes through said clip

said strap having a standing end opposite said working end;

said standing end is attached to a tensioning device to put final tension on said strap to bind the cargo once excess length has been taken up by feeding and pulling said working end through said clip.

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Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The strap shortening device of claim 15, further comprising:

the overall length of the strap being adjustable between said clip and said ring at a ration of about 2:1.

Claims 17-19 (Cancelled)

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